

Serial No. 10/774,982

Page 2 of 9

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 - 25 (canceled)

26. (Previously added) A mounting apparatus for a post, comprising:

a post base having a concave bottom surface with an elongate slot therethrough and an upwardly extending sidewall dimensioned to engage an inner sidewall of a post to be mounted;

a lower bearing positioned beneath the post base and providing a center hole therethrough, the lower bearing comprising a substantially flat bottom surface and a top surface that is convex and corresponding in curvature to the concave bottom surface of the post base; and

means to releasably secure the post base and lower bearing to an attachment rod that is angularly fixed and immoveably secured in a substructure, the substructure having a substantially flat surface corresponding to the substantially flat bottom surface of the lower bearing, wherein the post base may be rotated about the attachment rod and angularly offset therefrom, to enable a mounted post to be angularly aligned and secured.

27. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 26 wherein the lower bearing is substantially solid.

28. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 26 wherein the concave bottom surface of the post base and the convex top surface of the lower bearing comprise semispherical curved surfaces.

29. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 27 wherein the post base and lower bearing are comprised of gray iron.

Serial No. 10/774,982

Page 3 of 9

30. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 26 wherein the post base is configured to mount a post that will break away from the mount in response to the force of a vehicle impact.

31. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 30 wherein the post base is adapted to break away from the attachment rod in response to the force of a direct vehicle impact to the post base.

32. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 26 wherein the top surface of the lower bearing and the bottom surface of the upper bearing comprise textured surfaces.

33. (currently amended) A mounting apparatus for a post, comprising:
a substructure comprising a substantially flat mounting surface;
an attachment rod angularly fixed and immoveably secured to the substructure and extending upwardly from the mounting surface;
a disc-shaped, solid, lower bearing positioned above the mounting surface of the substructure, the disc shaped lower bearing comprising:
a substantially flat bottom surface,
a convex curved top surface, and
a hole extending through the center of the disc to admit the attachment rod;
a post base positioned above the lower bearing, the post base comprising:
a side wall dimensioned to engage an inner sidewall of a post, and

Serial No. 10/774,982

Page 4 of 9

a bottom comprising a convex curved surface adapted to slidingly engage the top surface of the lower bearing and having an elongate slot extending therethrough to admit an the attachment rod; and

a fastener to ~~engages~~ engage the attachment rod to releasably secure the mount in position;

wherein a mounted post may be angularly offset from the ~~attachment~~ attachment rod in a desired direction by translating the attachment rod in the elongate slot and rotating the post base.

34. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 33 wherein the convex and concave surfaces are semispherical.

35. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 33 wherein the post base is configured to mount a post that will break away from the mount in response to a predetermined impact force.

36. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 35 wherein the post base is adapted to break away from the attachment rod in response to a predetermined impact force.

37. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 35 wherein the top surface of the lower bearing and the bottom surface of the upper bearing comprise textured surfaces.

38. (Previously added) An adjustable post mount comprising:

a stationary portion comprising a substructure that provides a substantially flat mounting surface and an attachment rod comprising a free end that extends upwardly

Serial No. 10/774,982

Page 5 of 9

from the mounting surface and a fixed end that is attached to the substructure so as to prevent angular displacement of the attachment rod;

a substantially solid, disc-shaped lower bearing comprising a convex, semispherically curved upper surface, a substantially flat ~~bottom~~ bottom surface and a center hole through which the attachment rod extends;

a post base that rests on the lower bearing, the post base comprising:

a concave, semispherically curved bottom surface corresponding in curvature to the upper surface of the lower bearing; and

an elongate slot through the bottom surface dimensioned to receive the attachment rod and to enable angular displacement of the post base with respect to the attachment rod to offset a vertical misalignment of the stationary portion; and

a fastener securable to the attachment rod wherein the adjustable post mount may be releasably locked into position and readjusted.

39. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 38 wherein the top surface of the lower bearing and the bottom surface of the post base comprise surfaces providing a roughened texture to increase the frictional hold therebetween.

40. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 38 wherein the post base is configured to mount a post that will break away from the mount in response to a predetermined impact force.

41. (Previously added) The mounting apparatus of claim 38 wherein the substructure comprises an anchor in which the attachment rod is permanently embedded.